

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 150499

13

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 XMB-07 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:HFNEWSOM

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R 112349Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 150499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAID, KS

SUBJECT: ROK DPM DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

1. DPM CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY JULY 10, ACCOMPANIED BY ROK EMBASSY MINISTER YANG AND DIRECTOR LEE OF EPB. DPM MADE STRONG PLEA FOR STATE SUPPORT OF ROK REQUEST TO EXIM FOR CREDIT FOR SEVENTH FERTILIZER PLANT. HE SAID PROJECT WAS FIRST PRIORITY TO ENABLE ROK BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD, ESPECIALLY RICE WHICH NOT ATTAINABLE WITHOUT MORE FERTILIZER. HE REMARKED ONLY SEMI-FACETIOUSLY THAT HE COULD NOT RETURN TO KOREA WITHOUT THE CREDIT.
2. INGERSOLL RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME BECAUSE EXIM ENABLING LEGISLATION STILL PENDING. HE INDICATED HE WOULD BRING QUESTION TO ATTENTION OF CHAIRMAN CASEY.
3. TAE SAID OUTLOOK IS FOR ROK TO EMERGE SATISFACTORILY FROM OIL AND RAW MATERIAL CRISIS. IN FIRST HALF YEAR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 150499

ECONOMY COMING OUT VERY WELL AND MAY EXCEED ANTICIPATED

8 REAL GNP GROWTH THIS YEAR.

4. HE THEN NOTED DETERIORATION IN NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS AND ADDED THAT ANY ASSUMPTION OF US TROOP REDUCTION WOULD ENCOURAGE ATTACK FROM NORTH. THEREFORE, US MUST KEEP TROOPS IN ROK AND MAINTAIN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO SEEMED TO BE ARGUING FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

5. INGERSOLL SAID HE ASSUMED DPM WAS AWARE OF STRONG TREND IN CONGRESS WHICH WILL JEOPARDIZE THESE PREMISES. A BILL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO REDUCE OVERSEAS TROOPS BY 150,000 AND A SUBSTITUTE BILL CALLED FOR REDUCTION BY 75,000. BOTH FAILED PASSAGE BUT SOME FEEL A REDUCTION BY 50,000 MIGHT HAVE PASSED. FOCUS OF THESE PROPOSALS WAS ASIA. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD OPPOSE STRENUOUSLY ANY MANDATORY REDUCTION PROPOSAL, THERE IS A DANGER AND THE ROK SHOULD BE AWARE OF IT.

6. SINCE DPM HAD BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF CONTINUED US ASSISTANCE TO KOREA, INGERSOLL STATED HE VIEWED IT IMPORTANT THAT ROK AUTHORITIES BE AWARE OF CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM BEING LEVIED AGAINST ROKG IN OUR CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE. INGERSOLL SAID MANY CONGRESSMEN ARE CRITICAL OF THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROK; AND IN FACT SOME HAVE INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR DISSATISFACTION THEY WOULD OPPOSE FURTHER AID TO ROK.

7. DPM SAID ROKG AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH SOME MISUNDERSTANDING POSSIBLE ON INDIVIDUAL CASES, THE ROKG CONSIDERS ITS COURSE IS JUSTIFIED AND WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN SITUATION TO CONGRESSMEN. INGERSOLL AGREED SUCH EFFORT ON PART OF DPM WOULD BE HELPFUL. KISSINGER

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NNN

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